

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

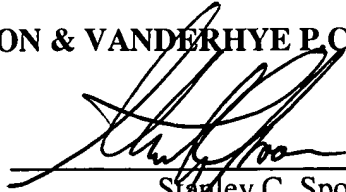
Entry of this second Preliminary Amendment is requested.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Stanley C. Spooner  
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:kmm  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100